



P21475.A16

IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

Applicants : Kazumasa AYUKAWA et al.

Group Art Unit: 3682

Appln. No. : 09/961,365

Examiner: M. CHARLES

Filed : September 25, 2001

For : THIN AUTOTENSIONER

**SUPPLEMENTAL INFORMATION DISCLOSURE STATEMENT**

Commissioner for Patents  
U.S. Patent and Trademark Office  
Customer Service Window, Mail Stop AMENDMENT  
Randolph Building  
401 Dulany Street  
Alexandria, VA 22314

Sir :

In accordance with the duty of disclosure under 37 C.F.R. §1.56, §1.97-1.98, and supplemental to the Information Disclosure Statements filed in the instant application on December 26, 2001, June 24, 2002, and June 24, 2003, Applicants hereby call the following documents, which were cited in a United Kingdom Combined Search and Examination Report dated February 28, 2005 for corresponding Application No. GB 0501919.5, to the Examiner's attention:

EPO 967, 412;

U.S. Patent No. 5,702,314; and

03/29/2005 MGBREM1 00000067 09961365

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Japanese Patent Publication No. 02-102956, along with an English language Abstract thereof.

Applicants note that the relevance of each of the above mentioned documents with respect to the various claims of the UK application, is as discussed in the United Kingdom Combined Search and Examination Report, a copy of which is attached hereto.

It is further noted that EPO 967, 412 was previously cited in the present application in a Supplemental Information Disclosure Statement filed on June 24, 2002. Accordingly, a copy of EPO 967 412 is not attached hereto.

Applicants respectfully request that the Examiner consider and cite the patent documents. Copies of the above-noted documents (except for EPO 967 412, as described above) are attached and have been listed on a PTO-1449 Form which is also attached hereto. Accordingly, the Examiner is requested to initial the appropriate spaces on the attached PTO-1449 Form and to return a copy of the Form to Applicants with the next official communication in the present application to confirm consideration of these documents.

Since this Supplemental Information Disclosure Statement is being submitted subsequent to mailing of a final action but before payment of the issue fee, Applicant has provided below a Statement Under 37 C.F.R. § 1.97(e), and a check including the amount of \$180.00 to cover the fee set forth in 37 C.F.R. § 1.17(p) is being submitted herewith in accordance with 37 C.F.R. § 1.97(d)(2). However, the Commissioner is hereby authorized

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to charge payment of any necessary additional fees associated with this communication or credit any overpayment to Deposit Account No. 19-0089.

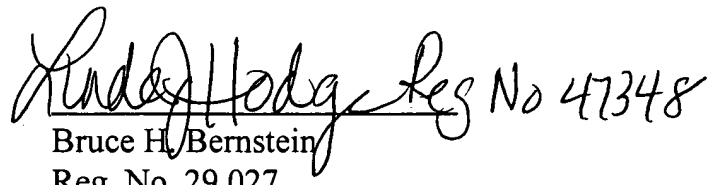
**Statement Under 37 C.F.R. 1.97(e)**

In accordance with 37 C.F.R. 1.97(e), the undersigned hereby states that each item of information contained in the information disclosure statement was first cited in any communication from a foreign patent office in a counterpart foreign application not more than three months prior to the filing of the information disclosure statement. Of course, this statement does not apply to information that has previously been cited by Applicant or the Examiner in the present application as that information is already of record and no certification is necessary.

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Should the Examiner have any questions, the Examiner is invited to contact the undersigned at the below-listed telephone number.

Respectfully submitted,  
Kazumasa AYUKAWA et al.

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Reg. No. 29,027

March 28, 2005  
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FORM PTO-1449

U.S. Department of Commerce  
Patent and Trademark OfficeAtty. Docket No.  
P21475Application No.  
09/961,365INFORMATION DISCLOSURE STATEMENT  
BY APPLICANT

(Use several sheets if necessary)

Applicant  
K. AYUKAWA et al.Filing Date  
September 25, 2001Group  
3682

## U.S. PATENT DOCUMENTS

EXAMINER  
INITIALS

DOCUMENT NUMBER

DATE

NAME

CLASS

SUBCLASS

FILING DATE  
IF  
APPROPRIATE

5 7 0 2 3 1 4 12/30/97

SCHMID

## FOREIGN PATENT DOCUMENTS

DOCUMENT NUMBER

DATE

COUNTRY

CLASS

SUBCLASS

TRANSLATION  
YES NO02 - 9 6 7 4 1 2 12/29/99  
1 0 2 9 5 6 04/16/90

E.P.O.

JAPAN

## OTHER DOCUMENTS (Including Author, Title, Date, Pertinent Pages, Etc.)

1 English Language abstract of JP 02-102956..

EXAMINER

DATE CONSIDERED

\*EXAMINER: Initial if citation considered, whether or not citation is in conformance with MPEP 609; draw line through citation if not in conformance and not considered. Include copy of this form with next communication to applicant.